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ATTORNEY GENERAL

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## Initiative Petition Information Sheet

Title of Petition: The Whale Safe Fishing Act

Petition Number : 11-19

### Proponents' Contact

Name: Richard Maximus Strahan

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Fax:

Email: [esistoo@yahoo.com](mailto:esistoo@yahoo.com)

Business Address: PO Box 382408, Cambridge, MA 02110

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### Proponents' Attorney

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

### Optional:

Will the proponents propose a summary by the Monday, 5 days after the petition-filing deadline?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Will the proponents submit a memo of law by the Friday 9 days after the petition-filing deadline?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please note that the above information will be made available to the public and particularly to possible opponents of certification. The Proponent and Proponents' Attorney (if any) will receive copies of any materials submitted by the public regarding certification.

**AGO Staff Person Receiving Petition:**

**PS**

*(to be filled in by Attorney General's Office staff)*

**Date:**

**8/3/2011**

*(to be filled in by Attorney General's Office staff)*

# The Whale Safe Fishing Act

The Massachusetts General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section to Chapter 130-

1. The use of Gill Nets in Massachusetts' marine coastal water is prohibited and is punishable by fines and imprisonment as provided elsewhere in this chapter.
2. The use of vertical buoy rope on pot gear is prohibited unless the specific kind of rope and associated gear to be used has been already determined to not entangle whales or sea turtles by the National Academy of Sciences. The use of vertical buoy rope that has not been so certified is prohibited and punishable by fine and imprisonment as provided elsewhere in this chapter.
3. Whales and Sea Turtles are to be protected and managed as endangered species under the provisions of Chapter 131A. Exclusive management authority for these species is assigned to the Natural Heritage Program of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. No regulation regarding these species will be issued pursuant to any authority provided by Chapter 130 and any current such regulations will be immediately revoked.

Nanette Dyer Blake  
Debbie Moss  
Sarah Glenn  
David Botticelli  
Michael Barrett  
Kathyria Ortiz  
Graceann Powers-Walsh  
David Goggins  
Kim L. Hitchens  
Elizabeth Tyler  
Patricia Miller  
Kathleen E. Clancy

[partial list]